

1 PROTECTING ACCESS TO MICROCONTROLLER MEMORY BLOCKS

3 ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

4 A microcontroller provides protection to memory blocks in an embedded
5 memory. A set of rules such as security levels mapped to memory blocks are
6 stored in a nonvolatile supervisory memory. An algorithm for application of the
7 rules is stored in a supervisory ROM. When a read or write operation is to be
8 carried out, the rules are applied according to the algorithm in order to authorize or
9 reject the read or write operation. Security levels can be modified, but only
10 according to defined rules. In one embodiment, the security levels can only be
11 increased.

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